## **Abstract**

Described is a method of sanitizing animal carcasses using aqueous streams having an antimicrobial composition added to the stream. Preferably, the antimicrobial composition includes a mixture of one or more carboxylic acids having up to 18 carbon atoms and one or more peroxycarboxylic acids having up to 12 carbon atoms, preferably a mixture of a  $C_2$ - $C_4$  peroxycarboxylic acid and a  $C_8$ - $C_{12}$  peroxycarboxylic acid. Also described is a novel antimicrobial composition adapted for sanitizing animal carcasses containing a mixture of one or more  $C_2$ - $C_4$  peroxycarboxylic acids and one or more  $C_8$ - $C_{12}$  peroxycarboxylic acids and one or more  $C_8$ - $C_{12}$  peroxycarboxylic acids and an alpha-hydroxy mono- or dicarboxylic acid.

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